



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

NPS Alaska Region  
240 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99501

907-644-3512 phone

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## Alaska National Parks News Release

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**Contact(s):** John Quinley

**Phone number:** 907-644-3512

### **NPS Alaska Seeks Comment on Compendiums**

Alaska's National Parks are inviting comment through February 15, 2012, on each park's annual compendium. The compendium is a compilation of all designations, closures and restrictions imposed under discretionary authority within the regulations covering national parks.

Compendiums are a tool to help manage Alaska's national parks; as part of the park-related regulations, they help provide for the enjoyment, use and protection of national parks.

At least two changes are proposed as the result of public comments received during 2011.

At Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, compendium provisions requiring bear-resistant food storage are proposed to be relaxed in certain circumstances. Local residents suggested the modifications to accommodate local practices in a manner that also protects wildlife. Among the suggested changes are making the food storage requirements applicable only between April 1 and November 14, exempting legally taken fish and associated equipment from food storage provisions, and allowing exceptions on a case by case basis in appropriate circumstances.

In three Southwest Alaska national preserves (Lake Clark, Katmai and Aniakchak), the State of Alaska has extended wolf hunting and trapping seasons to June 30 when wolves are denning and raising vulnerable offspring and their pelts have little to no trophy or economic value.

The NPS proposes to prohibit the take of wolves under the state sport hunting and trapping regulations in Aniakchak, Katmai, and Lake Clark national preserves during the time wolves are denning. This change would align hunting and trapping closure dates with the federal subsistence hunting seasons, protecting wolves during vulnerable denning periods and while pelts are of poor quality.

The State of Alaska's justification for the extended season is founded on intensive management predator control objectives and creates unacceptable impacts to the preserves' purposes and values. State actions that seek to manipulate natural wildlife populations for human consumption, or have that practical effect, are inconsistent with NPS statutes, regulations, and policies and exceed Congress's authorization of sport hunting in ANILCA.

A copy of each park's proposed compendium for the 2012 season is available at [http://www.nps.gov/akso/management/proposed\\_compendiums.cfm](http://www.nps.gov/akso/management/proposed_compendiums.cfm) as is a link to email comments. A written copy may be requested directly from the park or the National Park Service, 240 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501, Attn: Compendium.

Comments will be accepted by mail or e-mail through February 15. Comments are welcome at any time in addition to this timeframe, but comments received after February 15 will be considered in future compendium revisions.

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